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THE MAN AND THE MACHINE

The Capital Journal has not taken any interest in the Republican primary election for the very good reason that it is little concerned over the result. The candidates have made many pledges of economy and reform in their bids for votes but we presume if nominated, and a republican nomination is in most instances equivalent to election, most of them will follow serenely in the footsteps of those who have gone before. The candidate and officeholder generally view the job of serving the public from radically different angles. If we took seriously the ante-election pledges of the candidates, or believed that they do themselves, we might be more interested in the primary election and its results.

There is one contest, however, which seems to overshadow all others this year—that of secretary of state. It is a case of one man pitted against a political organization, because the powers that be have decreed that the one man must be punished for having an occasional independent thought and acting sometimes on his own best judgment. Ben Olcott seems to be one of the few men in the state house who considers himself answerable to the people who elected him and not to the little ring which now they are in office feel that they own the state house and all that appertains to it.

Between Olcott and Moores as individuals we have no choice, but we do like to see fair play, and Olcott as a competent official is as much entitled to it as anybody else. He is not getting it in this case. Moores has been chairman of the state republican committee for several years, and might be said to own that organization. Most of the committeemen and regular strikers are out for him. A majority of the republican newspapers is for him because many of the publishers have received office at the hands of the state administration, among them the morning Statesman of this city, which has come out strongly for Moores. Many of these papers have to do what they are doing—some of them are party organs of the old school from choice.

So on the face of it Olcott does not appear to have a show. He is to be made a horrible example of as a man who refused to bow to the powers that control his party organization. No hint is made that he is dishonest, that he is incompetent, that he has neglected his official duty—but he hasn't been "good" in the party sense. He has at various times formed himself into a minority party and voted yes or no at board meetings when the governor and the other members of the board were anxious to have unanimous action. In Oregon party politics it is to be made a crime, or more properly, a heresy, to think or act independently and Ben Olcott is the first victim to be burned at the stake, figuratively speaking of course.

The plan to sacrifice Olcott may work out just as its promoters confidently expect it to—unless the rank and file of the republican party objects to the proceedings. Republican voters are on the whole pretty honest, intelligent people who turned their own party out of power in Oregon for several years because they had become disgusted with the way the men who were elected by them conducted the business and legislation of the state. There is no reason to believe that they like ring rule any better now than they have in the past, and—well, don't begin celebrating Moore's nomination until the returns are all in. You might have occasion to feel foolish if you do.

We have always found that it is best in the long run to be honest and frank and square with the public. The editor of the Capital Journal is not a republican; he is not a partisan and thinks that a paper may be independent in a partisan sense, although it stands for certain principles of government that are made issues by political parties. We have no particular interest in the success of any party organization, standing rather for principles and for candidates who seem best qualified for public service, regardless of their party affiliations. Lincoln is credited with saying that "God must have loved the plain people because he made so many of them," and we have come to think a good deal that way in respect to the republican voters. They are so numerous always that it is safe to say their mission in the scheme of government is for good and that a large majority of them are politically interested

first of all in their own welfare, which is human nature, and after that in government that will redound to the greatest good to the greatest number, which is true patriotism. That is why we believe Ben Olcott will win next Friday. The organization arrayed against him is too perfect; its objects are too apparent and its motives and self-interest cannot be misconstrued. Republican voters will place the man above the machine; freedom of thought and speech above a patronage-purchased party press.

Of course, this is none of the Capital Journal's business—the Oregonian will certainly say so; that we are a non-partisan democratic newspaper which should not butt into republican quarrels. Still we are inclined to think that a great many republicans, and good, straight ones, too, will appreciate our saying a word for the man who is fighting with his back to the wall against the machine, and whose nomination would be equivalent to serving notice on certain occupants of fat jobs in the state house that more attention paid to business and less to political wirepulling would be appreciated. That notice should be given by republican voters next Friday by the re-nomination of Ben Olcott—for the good of the republican party, the people of Oregon of all parties.

For the first time in the history of the state Coos county this year will have an exhibit at the state fair. Heretofore it has never done anything in this line because the difficulty of getting her display to Salem was too great, all having to be sent to Portland by boat and forwarded from there. The completion of the Eugene-Marshfield railroad has brought that wonderfully rich section in touch with the balance of the state, for which said balance is properly thankful. Curry county should also be represented. The county court of Coos has taken the matter in hand and arranged for the collection of the display.

If the American mails carried money enough they would provide the means for England to carry on the war and also pay off her war debt. She has declared all paper money and checks carried in the mails contraband of war, and so confiscates them. On land this would be called highway robbery, but at sea it is nothing more serious than piracy. If England is looking for trouble with the United States she is taking the right course to find it, and she will not have to look long or far. When the American dollar is hit some real patriot gets indignant. As a nation we are disposed to carry our heart in our pocket.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has put one over on the Turks, and has shown up where he was least expected with an army that is exceedingly dangerous to the Turkish position in Mesopotamia. It is probable, too, that he may drive the Turks back and allow the English armies in the neighborhood of Kut-al-Amara to advance again. He also threatens all the Turkish armies in that section, and they will probably have to fall back to save being surrounded. Apparently it will not be long until the Russian bear is growling at the gates of Constantinople.

The gentleman who writes the leading editorials in the Oregonian and the paragon, want to hold a conference and agree on some kind of a compromise. It often happens when a heavy editorial appears in the big daily that the paragon takes a poke at it and intimates that it isn't so. It keeps the readers puzzling as to which to believe.

Thomas M. Anderson makes the suggestion in a letter to the Oregonian that instead of fighting Mexico should we have a break with her, that the proper course to take would be to declare war and then blockade her ports. She imports everything in the manufactured line and would soon be forced to get good and behave.

Two more days and the election troubles of some at least will be things of the past. Congratulations will then be in order, and it is really an open question as to whether we should congratulate the winners or the losers.

It would be a splendid idea to have a general clean-up day in Salem.



PECK'S BAD BOY

George Peck is dead; and o'er his head, they'll place a slab of granite, on which I'd write, "Old friend, good night! You filled with glee this planet. How oft with joy your wicked boy in bygone days has filled me! How oft I blessed that imp possessed, while laughter nearly killed me! Old Comrade Peck, you were on deck, in after days, as speaker, did sober deeds, wrote heavy screeds, for lofty fame a seeker. You governed well, so people tell, the province of Wisconsin; as magistrate you hit a gait that doubtless was entrancing! But no one cries, "How nobly wise was Peck, the statesman, thinker; on statesmanship he had a grip, he surely was a clinker!"

But by your bier we shed a tear, and draw our sackcloth closer, and say, "Good night! Old friend, sleep tight, with Bad Boy and the Grocer!"



"A CRUEL WORLD" WILL RECEIVE 108 SENIORS

There Will Be 190 to Take Their Places, and 225 to Supersede These

When the diplomas are passed around at the close of the commencement exercises of the Salem high school, in the armory, the evening of June 2, 108 seniors will tuck their parchment credentials under their arms, and step from the stage, out into what is commonly known as "a cruel world."

And in the places left vacant by these 108 seniors, 190 juniors are waiting to assume the dignity of seniors next year. And in the shoes of the 190 juniors, there are about 225 sophomores ready to take a step on the educational ladder. And just one class lower than the sophomores, are 255 from the junior high schools, waiting to become full fledged high school students, and to be accorded the privilege of becoming members of the high school student body.

If the junior high school system had not been organized in Salem, this year there would have been more than 1,000 pupils entitled to the privilege of attending the high school, which is at present crowded to capacity with its 800 students.

At the close of the first semester, 12 students were graduated. These with the 108 to receive diplomas June 2, makes a total of 120 graduates for the year, compared to 89 of the preceding year.

Since the law went into effect by which pupils in any part of the state living in a district in which there is no high school, may attend any high school in the state, the tuition to be paid by the district from which they come, pupils from the rural districts have been taking advantage of this law.

For this reason, as well as the fact that students in the upper grades are not dropping out, the chances are that the number of students in the Salem high school will rapidly increase from year to year.

In former years, girls were greatly in the majority, especially in the upper grades and as the graduating year approached, the boys became fewer, until only those were left who expected to go into a profession requiring a higher education.

Now the story is different, especially in the Salem high school. One year ago 491 boys and 531 girls were registered in the high school, between the ages of 14 and 20 years. According to the figures of Superintendent O. M. Elliott, in his April 28 monthly report, the boys numbered 504 and the girls 527, between the ages of 14 and 20 years. And in the classification of pupils between 12 and 14 years old, the boys are now in the majority.



Mrs. Alice H. Page, Republican candidate for Representative. Qualified through:

College education at the University of Toronto.
Business experience: Secretary of St. Helens Hall, Portland, and teacher of mathematics there and in Portland high school for four years; part owner and bookkeeper of the Woodburn Water works for three years.

Experience in public affairs: Salem public library board, vice president two years, president the last four; Salem Woman's club ten years; committee work in many public activities in Salem.

Legal education, and admission to the bar last year.

Residence in Oregon fifteen years, in Marion county ten.

Taxpayer for eight years in Marion county and therefore in favor of a sane business session.

High ideals of the duty of the citizen and of the legislature.

No. 60 on the ballot. Your support is earnestly solicited.

(Paid advertisement)

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Los Angeles to Have Preparedness Parade

Los Angeles, Cal., May 16.—The Los Angeles "preparedness parade," planned as a sequel to the gigantic march of New Yorkers will probably be held here July 4 instead of June 10, as outlined by Mayor Sebastian.

Secretary Wiggins, of the Chamber of Commerce, was active today seeking to change the date. It is planned to marshal nearly 60,000 marchers for the parade. Recruits for the Monterey camp, besides gunnismen of southern California will occupy a small part of the line.

Seattle to Have Little One.

Seattle, Wash., May 16.—Seattle plans a monster preparedness parade to be held Saturday, June 10. The Northwest Business Men's Preparedness League has the matter in charge, and assurances of support have been received from all the newspapers, and most of the civic as well as official military organizations. It is expected there will be 25,000 in line of march.

GOVERNMENT FACES STRIKE

Rock Island, Ill., May 16.—The government arsenal strike, called for today, was postponed on account of the war department having granted a wage increase.

The Picture Tells The Story

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THE ELK Restaurant for Refined Tastes also Flowers for All Occasions. Candy & Cigars Phone 412 333 State Street	Pure Milk and Cream Oak Park Dairy Auto Delivery. Phone 609 W. F. Looney Mgr.
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